



Graphic design by Staff Sgt. Josh Clendenen



Photo by Joe Fischer

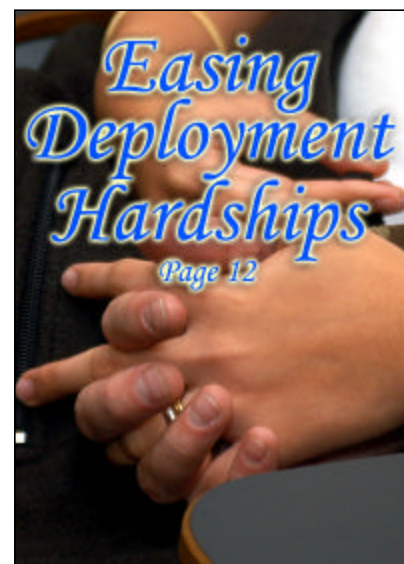


Photo by Larry Hulst

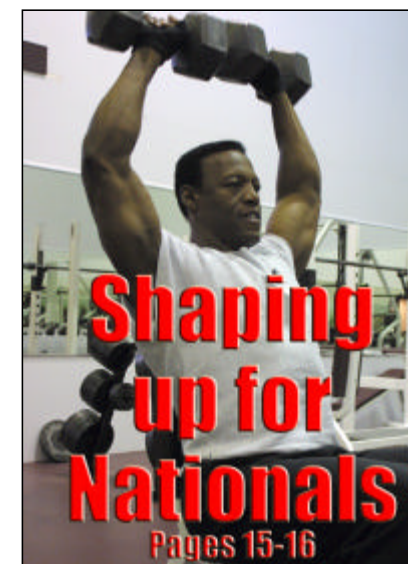


Photo by Senior Airman Shane Sharp



Thanksgiving operating hours

The following are operating hours for various facilities over Thanksgiving:

- Aero Club, 556-4310 The office will be closed, but flying is available every day.
- Aquatics, 556-4608 – Closed. The center will be open Nov. 29, 10:30 a.m.-6 p.m.
- Aragon Dining Facility, 556-4180 – Holiday dining hours. Brunch from 6-10 a.m. and supper 11 a.m.-5 p.m.
- Auto Skills, 556-4481 – Closed. The center will be open Nov. 29, 8 a.m.-7 p.m.
- Bowling, 556-4607 – Closed. The center will be open Nov. 29, 9 a.m.-11:30 p.m.
- CDC, 554-9572 – Closed.
- Community Activities Center, 556-1733 – Closed. The center will be open Nov. 29, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
- Enlisted Club, 556-4914 – Closed Nov.

- 28-29. The club will be open Nov. 30 for Breakfast with Santa.
- Fitness Center, 556-4462 – Open Nov. 28, 7 a.m.-6 p.m. The center will be open Nov. 29, 4:30 a.m.-10:30 p.m.
- Golf Course, 556-7414 – Facilities are closed Nov. 28, but the course will be open for play, weather permitting. Facilities are open regular winter hours on Nov. 29.
- Library, 556-7462 – Closed.
- Lodging, 556-6293 – Open 24 hrs. a day, seven days a week.
- Officers' Club, 556-4181 – Serving a Thanksgiving Buffet 11 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Outdoor Recreation, 556-4867 – Closed. The center will be open Nov. 29, 9:30 a.m.-6 p.m.
- Youth Center, 556-7220 – Closed.
- Base Exchange – Open Nov. 29 and Nov. 30, 6 a.m.-9 p.m.



Photo by Master Sgt. Michael Funicelli

Pete progress

PROJECT: Dormitory Phase II
PURPOSE: Meet the housing requirements of our single enlisted population.
STATUS: This is a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers project and is currently in the final stage of construction. The Corps is currently conducting pre-commissioning inspections with a final inspection due to occur on or about Nov. 15.
ESTIMATED COMPLETION DATE: Construction is scheduled to be completed Dec. 15. Furniture will follow soon after the acceptance of the facility. Actual move-in is expected to occur the first part of January.
For more information, call the 21st Civil Engineer Squadron at 556-1634.

Where are they?



Team Pete has members deployed to various locations around the world. Please remember them and their families during the holidays and during these deployments.

(Information courtesy of the 21st Mission Support Squadron)



And the winner is ...

Scott Deeds, 21st Security Forces Squadron, shows off his award-winning chili. Col. Diann Latham, 21st Space Wing Vice Commander, named Deeds' chili the best in the Security Forces Chili Cook-Off.



Photo by Robb Lingley



Space Observer

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A Moment in Time: November



■ On Nov. 22, 1988, the first B-2 Stealth Bomber was rolled out of Air Force Plant 42 in Palmdale, Calif.

■ On Nov. 24, 1944, 88 B-29s made the first heavy-bomber strike on Tokyo, Japan.

■ On Nov. 25, 1956, Tech. Sgt. R.J. Patton made the first polar parachute jump.

■ On Nov. 26, 1991, Clark Air Base, Republic of the Philippines, was returned to the Philippine government.

Information courtesy of Staff Sgt. Trisha Morgan, 21st Space Wing History Office.

BASH

Pete program aims to protect birds, planes

By 2nd Lt. Suzy Kohout
21st Space Wing Public Affairs

During the past two years, the number of reported bird strikes at Peterson Air Force Base has noticeably decreased.

Peterson, as well as all Air Force flying bases, implemented the Bird Aircraft Strike Hazard program after an accident that happened in 1995. A U.S. Air Force Airborne Warning and Control System plane crashed during takeoff at Elmendorf AFB, Alaska. An investigation revealed that four Canadian geese had been injected into the engines.

“The crash at Elmendorf opened everybody’s eyes to reducing wildlife strikes,” said Capt. Darron Haughn, 21st Space Wing Safety. “Birds in particular are the most common problem for airfields, as are other animals such as deer, coyotes, etc.”

The BASH program is developed to reduce the amount of bird and wildlife strikes, increase safety for flight crew members, and reduce economic costs associated with damage to aircraft.

The biggest problem that Peterson has is that birds reside and migrate to the open water areas on or near base. Currently, the golf course, located next to the flight line, has three open water ponds. There are also a few drainage ponds throughout base, and a water

treatment plant near the north gate. These locations where water collects and vegetation grow attract transient migratory geese and ducks to rest and feed.

Since the military is collocated with the Colorado Springs Airport, there is a dual effort to decrease the amount of bird strikes.

To help do this, the military uses pyrotechnics. Spending \$250 annually, safety and base operations save money by using an inexpensive bird dispersal device. A pistol is used to shoot a special type of firework shell, called ‘screamers and bangers,’ which creates a loud noise to scare the birds away.

Another method to decrease bird and wildlife strikes on base is to keep the grass cut between seven and 14 inches. The city and the military have also buried a three-foot skirt below all base fence perimeters in order to keep burrowing animals out.

The airport and city take care of bird dispersal by remote-controlled air cannons. These cannons don’t fire ammunition, but are powered by propane, which creates a loud noise that drives birds from the area. They are remotely fired from the air traffic control tower or from other areas.

The Cherokee Water Treatment Facility appears to be on Peterson, but actually is located directly next to it near the north gate. This area lies by the north end of the flight line and also



Photo by 2nd Lt. Suzy Kohout

This air cannon, on the bank of the Cheorkee Water Treatment Facility, emits a loud noise to scare birds off of the water.

attracts ducks and seagulls.

Safety and Base Operations perform random checks of all water areas, including the treatment plant. When they notice a large amount of birds, city officials are contacted and remotely start the cannons.

“We focus a lot of energy on the geese and ducks,” said Haughn. “We watch them very closely and keep them from sitting on grassy areas on the golf course or in the waters. If we don’t check areas, all it will take is one of them to get in the path of an aircraft to create millions of dollars in damage. Our program has proven very effective and we’ll keep it going to prevent catastrophic bird strikes.”

This year to date, Peterson has had 14 bird strikes compared to last year’s 34. According to Haughn, all of the bird strikes haven’t caused any damage because the strikes involved only small fowl such as bats, starlings, horned larks, and other birds about the size of an adult’s hand.

According to U.S. Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services (an agency Peterson works closely with), smaller birds are unavoidable during strikes.

“People have tried everything,” said Haughn. “The smaller birds don’t follow the patterns for harassment as larger birds. Anybody can scare them off and they will be right back. Larger birds like ducks are scared from pond to pond, but eventually they’ll go away.”

“The main difference between large and small birds are that ducks look for a home and the smaller birds look to feed on grass and bugs along the flight line,” he added. “When you scare

the ducks, it’ll take them longer to come back as opposed to the smaller birds. This is good for the flight line because the small birds don’t create severe damage to aircraft.”

To help decrease the amount of birds along the flight line, Base Operations goes out to the water areas and conducts a bird count at least twice a day. Safety also does random checks about three times a week.

Bird counts help track when high migratory seasons occur so that base and civilian personnel can prepare for increased measures of bird dispersal. Spring and autumn are the highest migrating seasons for birds, thus the busiest times to implement BASH.

Base personnel are looking into decreasing the transient bird population during the higher migratory seasons by habitat alteration. A study is underway where a grid-meshed wire netting is placed over water and vegetation areas. This keeps migrating birds and residential birds from the area. Residential birds are a decoy for migrating birds since they usually feed and rest in well-vegetated areas.

The BASH program for Peterson stresses that harassment is the primary means of eliminating bird strikes.

In the near future, the BASH program, as we know it, will change to the Wildlife Hazard Management plan. The regulations that govern flight operations require that military units operating under civilian airports need to adhere to their wildlife plans.

According to Haughn, instead of having two separate efforts, it’ll give the military one unified approach to reducing wildlife hazards.



Courtesy Photo

A large bird is lodged in the front stabilizer of a Navy T-44A in Corpus Christi, Texas. Had the bird hit further out on the wing or elsewhere on the aircraft, the damage could have been a lot worse for the crew of the aircraft.



YMCA DINNER DANCE

In celebration of Military Family Month, there will be a "Homecoming Dinner Dance" 6:30-9:30 p.m. tonight, at the Armed Services YMCA's Southeast Family Center. The Y is located at 2190 Jet Wing Drive, next to Sierra High School. Cost is \$1 for adults and 50 cents for children ages 12 and under. The event includes a chili and cornbread dinner with drinks and dessert, and use of the Y facilities.

Call the YMCA at 622-9622 to reserve a place.

BONE MARROW DRIVE

The next bone marrow drive at Peterson is scheduled for 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Tuesday, in the Building 1 auditorium.

Base members are eligible to participate in the DoD Bone Marrow Program even if they are ineligible to donate blood (based on overseas assignments).

Those eligible for the DoD Bone Marrow Program must be active duty, dependents, DoD Civil Service, Guard

or Reserve, between 18-60 years of age, and in good health.

For more information, contact Master Sgt. Kristin Clark at 556-3152 or kristin.clark@peterson.af.mil.

OWC NOTE

2002 White House ornaments are for sale from the Officers Wives' Clubs for \$15, and Pikes Peak Military Family Cookbooks for \$12. Call Sandy for more information at 535-8127.

MUSEUM VOLUNTEERS

The museum needs volunteers in the gift shop to work one shift, 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. or 12:30 - 3 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday.

Contact Don Fulkerson at 282-1231 or the museum at 556-4915 for more information.

VOLUNTEER DRIVERS

The 21st Services Squadron needs volunteer drivers for ski trips and other winter-season activities. Stop by the Community Activities Center, Building 640, to apply or call 556-1733.

Drivers must have experience driving a 15-passenger van and must be CPR certified. Training will be provided. Drivers also receive free lift tickets on ski trips.

Ski trips are scheduled for Dec. 7, Jan. 25, Feb. 8, and March 8.

INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING SERVICE

There will be an Interfaith Community Thanksgiving Service Tuesday at 6 p.m. in the Peterson Chapel. Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Richard Munsell, Peterson Complex Wing Chaplain, will be the speaker. The offering for this service will be food donations for the Family Support Center food bank. Immediately following this service there will be a pie social. Attending families are requested to bring some pies for sharing. Leftover pies from the social will be shared with base personnel who will be working Thanksgiving Day. Everyone is welcome at this service.

EPD SEMINARS

The Peterson Enlisted Professional Development Committee is taking reservations for the following seminars:

- Senior NCO, Dec. 18
- NCO, Dec. 19
- Airman, Dec. 20

All seminars will be held from 7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. in Room 2 of Building 425, Aerospace Physiology. For more information and to make reservations, call Senior Master Sgt. Dennis Rogers at 554-7285 or Master Sgt. Kristin Clark at 556-3152.

TREA PINOCHLE TOURNAMENT

Chapter 1 of The Retired Enlisted Association will host a Pinochle Tournament Nov. 30, 11 a.m., at the chapter home, 834 Emory Circle, Colorado Springs. All TREA members, their spouses, auxiliary members and members-at-large are invited. There is an entrance fee of \$10 per entrant. Cash prizes will be awarded based on the total number of

entrants. Friends who are eligible to join TREA, either as regular, active military, or sponsored (veteran) are invited to participate by completing an application and paying appropriate dues at the door. For reservations call 596-0927.

MPF HOLIDAY HOURS

In conjunction with Military Family Appreciation Month, the 21st Mission Support Squadron Military Personnel Flight will be closed Nov. 28 and 29, the Thanksgiving Holiday and day after. Normal business hours will resume Dec. 2.

HOLIDAY PARTIES

■ The North American Aerospace Defense Command and U.S. Northern Command holiday party is scheduled for 6 p.m., Dec. 6, at the Officers' Club.

■ The 21st Space Wing holiday party will be at 6 p.m., Dec. 13 at the Enlisted Club.

Call your squadron points of contact for reservations and for more information on holiday festivities.



At the Base Chapel

Protestant

Liturgical Worship, 8:15 a.m.
Traditional Sunday Worship
11 a.m.
Gospel Services, 12:30 p.m.

Catholic

Weekday Mass, 11:35 a.m.
Saturdays, 5 p.m.
Sundays, 9:30 a.m.
Reconciliation Saturdays, 4 p.m.

Religious Education

Catholic and Protestant Sunday
School classes begin at 8:30 and
9:45 a.m. respectively.

**For more information

Call the chapel at 556-4442
for available chapel
programs.

Blotter

The following real-life events with real individuals from around the Peterson Complex are to inform you of crimes, accidents, and events occurring on base. The following entries are from hundreds recorded in the Peterson Police Blotter:

***Editor's note: Although the Space Observer staff may make light of some Blotter entries, the intent is to call attention to our security and law enforcement concerns. However, rest assured, our professional Security Forces treat each incident seriously.*

Three Thief Amigas - Nov. 11

Three female family members were hanging out at Base Exchange, when one of them had the bright idea to steal a set of ball earrings, a necklace, and three tubes of lip gloss.

The store detective contacted Security Forces who apprehended the three amigas at the scene. The looting lasses were slapped with a summons by the Colorado Springs Police Department for shoplifting, and were released to CSPD for further processing.

Where in the world is Airman Clueless? - Nov. 11

A Peterson airman

turned himself in to Luke Air Force Base for being absent without leave.

Security Forces made arrangements to pick up the absent airman and return him to Peterson.

Ants turn up the heat - Nov. 11

A military family housing resident notified Security Forces about a fire in the utility room near the water heater of the house.

He told Security Forces that he was spraying some insect repellant on some ants when the fumes caught fire. He put out the fire with an extinguisher, but it was still smoking when he decided to call for further help.

The Fire Department arrived on scene to quell the situation.

Risky Business - Nov. 12

An airman decided that she needed some tunes and perhaps some underwear to dance in

like Tom Cruise.

Instead of buying them like most would do, and evidently planning a long dance session, she decided to heist three bra and underwear sets and six compact disks.

Unfortunately, the dancing dunce forgot to pay the \$175 total price on them, and the exchange detective apprehended her.

Security Forces was contacted and subsequently picked up the thief, who was later released to her first sergeant.

Dude, where's my car? - Nov. 13

An airman went joyriding in another airman's car without her consent.

Security Forces were contacted to retrieve the joyrider and the keys of the vehicle, and the airman's first sergeant was contacted to ensure the joyrider understood the basics of automobile ownership.

911 medical response - Nov. 13

A military member at the base gym complained of an injury to his hip. Security Forces, the Fire Department, and an American Medical Response ambulance responded to the scene.

The individual was treated and released.

BX back & bonk #1 - Nov. 13

A driver was backing out of a parking space at the BX parking lot and bumped into another vehicle, which she did not see.

Security Forces cited the driver with improper backing resulting in an accident.

Alarming - Nov. 14

One of several this week, an alarm activated at the ARSPACE building. Security Forces arrived promptly at the scene, verified all was in order, and authenticated the status of the building was secure.

911 returns to the Fitness Center - Nov. 14

An individual working out at the Fitness Center complained of a knee injury.

Security Forces, the Fire Department, and an AMR ambulance responded to the injured man, who was transported to Penrose Community Hospital Emergency Room for further treatment.

BX back & bonk #2 - Nov. 14

A driver in the BX parking lot was backing out of her space when she struck another vehicle on the passenger side door.

The driver was issued a citation for inattentive backing resulting in a minor motor vehicle accident.

Bottom burps? - Nov. 15

The Fire Department responded to the Child Development Center where an employee had reported a smell of gas.

The cause was determined to be not an excess of diapers or gas, but a heater starting up.


I'd like that charbroiled - Nov. 16

Security Forces and the Fire Department received an automatic fire code alarm from McDonalds. When they arrived, they discovered the reason for the alarm was steam coming off the grill while it was being cleaned. The incident was quickly

McTerminated.

'Tired' and hurt - Nov. 17

Security Forces, the Fire Department, and an AMR ambulance arrived at the service station to help an individual who had slit his thumb open when a vehicle tire exploded. His spouse later transported him to Fort Carson for further medical care.

 (If you have any information about a crime, please call 556-4000.)



Seventeen honored for heroism

By Capt. Kelly Cahalan
Air Warfare Center Public Affairs

Seventeen members of the 66th and 58th Rescue Squadrons were honored recently for their heroic actions and bravery in aerial flight while supporting Operation Enduring Freedom.

The Distinguished Flying Cross, one of the military's highest combat decorations, was awarded to: Maj. John Galik; Capt. Brent Beaulieu, John Mangan, Phillip Swenson and Jeremy Turner; Tech. Sgts. Troy Durocher, Patrick Harding and Robert Sullivan; Staff Sgts. Michael Ames, Michael Darin, Caleb Etheridge, Joshua Faine, Joshua Fetters, Gaylord Howe Jr., Robert Roberts III and Gregory Sisco; and Senior Airman Michael Flores.

The airmen were recognized for their roles in two separate missions during Operation Anaconda in March in Afghanistan.

On the night of March 2, two HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopters assigned to the 66th Expeditionary Rescue Squadron launched to bring

back critically wounded troops from a small valley surrounded on three sides by enemy forces.

The first helicopter, Gecko 11, entered the valley under intense small arms fire and located the landing zone. Almost immediately after landing, the crew was targeted by machine guns, mortars and rocket-propelled grenades. One mortar round detonated within 50 feet of the aircraft.

As the pararescuemen from Gecko 11 began loading the injured, the flight crew guided the second aircraft, Gecko 12, in to land safely while an AC-130 Gunship provided close-air support.

That night, the Gecko 11 and Gecko 12 crews rescued nine soldiers from the battlefield.

On March 3, another two-ship mission put two different helicopter crews into another harrowing rescue situation.

"At the time, we weren't really thinking about anything other than executing the mission," said Turner, Flight Commander on the second mission. "All the training we do every day kicked in, and we did our job."

The March 3 mission

began with a rescue call that ended shortly after takeoff when the helicopter crews were notified that the retraction site was under intense fire. They were redirected to an alternate refueling and re-arming point and put on a 30-minute alert posture.

Fourteen hours later the crews were notified they needed to navigate through enemy-controlled mountainous terrain in low-illumination skies.

Gecko 11 located the landing zone, which was under mortar attack, and directed Gecko 12 in. After loading all the injured, both helicopters departed to a forward refueling area with less than nine minutes of fuel remaining.

The crews saved three lives that night, according to officials.

The bigger picture of the battle and the overall war is not lost on any of those honored by the recognition.

"We weren't the real heroes out there," said Darin, the pararescue team leader on the evening of March 3. "The real heroes were the guys (who) didn't make it home."

(Courtesy of Air Combat Command)

Iraqi forces fire on aircraft

By Kathleen T. Rhem
American Forces Press Service

Iraqi forces fired anti-aircraft artillery Nov. 17 and 18 at coalition airplanes enforcing the northern no-fly zone over Iraq.

Both attacks came from positions northeast of Mosul, defense officials said. In both instances, coalition aircraft responded by dropping precision-guided munitions on Iraqi air defense elements.

The exchanges of fire do not differ much from hundreds of others over the past 11 years, said a U.S. official. But these strikes and others in the past week are of particular interest to world leaders because they come after the signing of a new U.N. Security Council resolution that authorizes strong repercussions for such aggression.

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said Nov. 17 the U.N. Security Council

would decide if such attacks constitute a material breach of its Resolution 1441.

Also on Nov. 17, coalition aircraft dropped 120,000 leaflets around the town of Ar Rumaythah, roughly 100 miles southeast of Baghdad. The leaflets urge Iraqi military forces not to engage coalition aircrews. They also lay out the consequences of such actions so the local civilian population can understand the situation, according to information released by the U.S. Central Command in Tampa, Fla.

The 3-by-6-inch flyers, written in Arabic, were dropped in two "leaflet bombs," fiberglass containers that explode over an area, allowing their contents to scatter and drift to the ground.

U.S. Central Command officials said this was the fourth leaflet drop in the past eight weeks.



Have a story idea?

Let us know by calling 556-4351
or e-mail us at: space.observer@peterson.af.mil



Clear shakes, rattles, rolls

By Tech. Sgt. Michael Phillips
21st Space Wing Public Affairs

A major earthquake near Clear Air Force Station, Alaska, had members of the 13th Space Warning Squadron all shook up.

The magnitude 7.9 quake, centered about 75 miles southeast of Clear, occurred at 1:12 p.m. local time Nov. 3.

Eleven buildings, including three dormitories, one radar site building, two warehouses, the motor pool, the Services building, an administration building, and the Security Forces building sustained at least some damage in the quake. Damage to doors, walls, ceilings, countertops, cabinets, electrical conduit, foundation concrete, exterior finish insulation, and parking lot pavement were among the repairs needed. The total cost to repair the damage is estimated at \$56,300.

"Immediate damage assessments were done by Arctec Preventive Maintenance crews, who are on duty 24-7," said Craig Robinson, 13th SWS

CE Manager. "A thorough follow-up assessment was done by the Arctec Civil Engineering staff the next day."

"One section of the Parks Highway, about 30 miles south of Clear AFS, had a large crack; however it was repaired the same day," Robinson said.

"Our contractors perform traditional Civil Engineering and Disaster Preparedness functions here at Clear," said 13th SWS Commander Lt. Col. Thomas Lollis.

Ironically, the Arctec Disaster Preparedness office put out an earthquake safety tip on Nov 1, just two days before the earthquake struck.

Earthquake safety is briefed monthly at the newcomers briefing.

"We are a team here at Clear," said Lollis. "Folks were looking out for one another – ensuring we were taking proper cover in doorways and such – as we felt the ground move beneath our feet."

Lollis said, "It was my first earthquake experience ever ... and it put the fear of God in me!"



Courtesy photos

A state truck stops alongside a split in the highway near the Tok, Alaska, cut-off road. The split was caused by a 7.9 magnitude earthquake Nov. 3.



Mark Templeton, Equipment Maintenance Supervisor, washes ash out of the boiler room during repair of a ruptured water line after the earthquake. If the ash is not cleaned out, it will turn into cement, causing more problems at Clear Air Force Station.



This section of highway is one of the many that were destroyed in the Nov. 3 earthquake in Alaska.

MyPay to make finance changes easier for members

By Staff Sgt.
Josh Clendenen
21st Space Wing Public Affairs

There is a new way for military members to get their Leave and Earnings Statements – online.

The program is called MyPay, and it will soon be a mandatory process for all military members.

"We expect some growing pains with the system, but in the long run it will be easier than having to make a trip to the finance office," said Staff Sgt. Pat Krill, 21st Comptroller Squadron.

MyPay is a service geared at helping military members access their payroll account information a little easier. It will give a person the ability to process transactions through the Web, and it will eliminate the waiting time for a

person's LES.

In order to access the MyPay system, the member needs to log on to <https://emss.dfas.mil/mypay.asp> and request a personal identification number. The PIN will then be mailed to the person's home in two to four days. Another way a PIN can be obtained is by requesting it through the finance office.

"If a person wants to request a PIN in person, just come over to the finance office and tell the customer service representative that's what you want to do," said Krill. "Remember though, filling out the paperwork in person won't speed up the time it takes to get a PIN. They are still mailed out, and we can't speed that up."

Once logged on to the system, a person can:

- View and print an LES.

■ Change Federal Tax withholding information.

■ Change State Tax information.

■ Update bank account numbers and the Electronic Funds Transfer address.

■ Change the mailing address.

■ Elect and change Thrift Savings Plan.

■ View and print travel voucher information.

In the near future, the MyPay system will also have these options available:

■ Start and stop allotments.

■ Print a W-2 for filing taxes.

"We're just trying to make the process a little easier for everyone," said Krill.

Another way the process will make things easier is its availability anywhere the user can access the Internet.



Courtesy graphic

The MyPay website will soon take the place of paper Leave and Earnings Statements for all military members. The site offers a variety of services related to military pay.

That, of course, brings up the question of information security. According to the Defense Finance and Accounting Service, the combination of the user's social security number, a personalized PIN number, and a Deptment of Defense specific telephone number, makes the system as secure as an

Automated Teller Machine.

If the user experiences any problems, assistance is available by calling 1-800-390-2348, 7 a.m.-7:30 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, Mondays through Fridays.

For details on the MyPay program, call 556-4770 or log on to <https://halfway.peterson.af.mil/21sw/21CPTS/>



A T Y O U R S E R V I C E

ASYMCA looking for artists, writers

The Armed Services YMCA is having its annual art and writing contests and the youth of Peterson are encouraged to submit their artwork and essays.

“Here at Peterson we have fantastic children and youth who are extremely gifted and talented. Both the art and writing contests are ways for them to showcase their skills and possibly win some great prizes. Please encourage your child or the child of a friend or co-worker to enter these contests,” said Ray Nishikawa, Family Support Center Director.

The art contest, which is in its eighth year, features artwork from the children of military members, kindergarten through sixth grade.

All submitted artwork should depict their active duty, Reserve, or Guard families. Children with top artwork from each of the services (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, and National Guard) will not only receive a \$500 U.S. Savings Bond, but their artwork will be used for the posters during next year’s Military Family Month. Second place will receive a \$100 US Savings Bond, as will the top artwork for Department of Defense and Coast Guard civilian children.

The other area children can enter is the essay contest. The Armed Services YMCA has a goal of promoting reading among children, and because of this, the contest is open to first through twelfth grade family members of active duty, Reserve, Guard, retired, DoD, and Coast Guard families. The essays can be written on any subject related to reading. Six categories compete for the top prizes: 1st and 2nd grades; 3rd and 4th; 5th and 6th; 7th



Graphic Courtesy of the Armed Services YMCA
These are the winners in the artwork category in the annual Armed Services YMCA reading and artwork contest.

and 8th all compete for a \$500 savings bond and the 9th and 10th and 11th and 12th compete for \$1,000 savings bonds.

“Last year’s 11th and 12th grade winner traced his love for reading to his father recording stories to listen to while deployed,” said Nishikawa.

The deadline for the art contest is Jan. 27, 2003, and the deadline for the

essay contest is March 17, 2003.

Full guidelines for the contests can be obtained from the Armed Services YMCA Web site at: www.asymca.org by e-mailing essay-contest@asymca.org. Information can also be obtained by calling (703)303-9600.

(Compiled from staff reports)

SERVICES CALENDARS

At the Officers’ Club		November 28 -- Thanksgiving Day family buffet, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m., make reservations.	November 29 -- The Officers’ Club will be closed.	December -- Watch for buffet specials throughout December.
At the Enlisted Club		November 27 -- Holiday food buffet, 5-7 p.m.	November 28-29 -- The club will be closed.	November 30 -- Breakfast with Santa, 8-10 a.m. Reservations by advance ticket purchase only.
At Outdoor Recreation		November 23 -- Weekend skiing starts.	November 28 -- Low impact wilderness class starts. Call to sign up.	December 14 -- Snow Tubing in Woodland Park area. The cost is \$10 per person.

This Week

Saturday

- Synchronized swimming, 8-10 p.m., at the Aquatics Center.

Monday

- Mothers on the Move exercise group. Call Family Advocacy for details.
- Transition planning, 9:30-11:30 a.m., at the Family Support Center.

Tuesday

- Interfaith Community Thanksgiving Service, 6 p.m., at the Chapel.
- Family Swim Night, 6-8 p.m., at the Aquatics Center. The cost is \$1 per person.

Thursday

- Thanksgiving holiday. Please see Page 2 for Services operating hours.
- The Clinic will be closed today.

Nov. 29

- The Clinic will be closed today.
- Family Swim Day, 1-3 p.m., at the Aquatics Center. The cost is \$1 per person.
- Annual holiday sale starts at the Silver Spruce Golf Course.
- Children’s Bowl by Mail tournament, call the Bowling Center for more information.

Helpful Numbers

- Family Advocacy 556-8943
- Education Center 556-4064
- Library 556-7462
- Community Center 556-7671
- Aquatics Center 556-4608
- Fitness Center 556-4462
- Officers’ Club 556-4181
- Enlisted Club 556-4194
- Youth Center 556-7220
- Family Support 556-6141
- Red Cross 556-9201
- Aragon Menu Line 556-4782
- Outdoor Recreation 556-4487
- Golf Course 556-7810

This Week

Team Pete lends a helping hand in Harvest of Love food drive

By **Christie Bond**
21st Space Wing Public Affairs

Dozens of volunteers from Peterson Air Force Base, Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Station, and Schriever Air Force Base spent the week supporting Colorado Springs' largest food drive.

The 12th Annual KRDO/Care and Share Harvest of Love food drive kicked off Monday and runs through Nov. 25.


The drive begins when the Care and Share staff sends invitations for participation to local schools. Participating schools then begin collecting food. By the time Peterson gets involved in mid-November, elementary, middle, junior high, and high schools throughout the county have collected truckloads of food, which are then transported to the food bank warehouse near I-25 and Garden of the Gods.

That's where Peterson, Cheyenne Mountain, and Schriever come in. Pickup teams, which include a minimum of two people, take Air Force trucks to schools throughout El Paso County, load the food donations, haul them to the warehouse, and help unload the food into large bins in the warehouse yard. After the trucks are unloaded, they repeat the process until the day's school pickup schedules are complete.

Once food has been unloaded at the ware-

house, it's weighed and moved into the repack room. There, more Team Pete volunteers sort the food to ensure variety and also to repack it for distribution to other helping agencies across southern Colorado. It is at those agencies that people in need receive the food.

This is the tenth year volunteers from Air Force Bases in Colorado Springs have supported the drive. The relationship began with a handful of transportation people and a couple of trucks. From a small squadron effort, the drive has blossomed into a full-force community support program.

Last year, the Harvest of Love garnered 482,000 pounds of food. The goal for this year's drive is 500,000 pounds. 



Photos by Joe Fischer

Left: 1st Lt. Lance Willoughby, 21st Maintenance Operations Flight, packs food donation items into a box. Donated items were sorted and packed by volunteers from local military bases and the community.



Left: Preciosa Fernandez seals a box full of assorted food items. Below: Shari Eply marks sorted items for packaging. The donated food items are sorted and grouped to ensure variety before packaging and distribution.



Left to right, Senior Master Sgt. Mike Clark, Karen Murphy, Kyle Powell, and Master Sgt. Greg Sedorenchik sort and box donated food items. Several volunteers worked throughout the week to reach this year's Harvest of Love goal of 500,000 pounds of food distributed to families in need.



Airman 1st Class Brannon Parker, CMOC, moves boxes full of food donations gathered from area schools. The boxes full of loose items will be sorted and repacked for distribution to several helping agencies across southern Colorado.





Making deployments easier for all

Security Forces offers new program to help ease pains of deployments

By 2nd Lt. Suzy Kohout
21st Space Wing Public Affairs

The 21st Security Forces Squadron started a new deployment assistance program for members and families. The first briefing, aimed to assist deployed unit members and their families, took place on Nov. 15.

The Security Forces Deployment Assistance

Program began with an introduction from Lt. Col. Lyle Cary, 21st Security Forces Commander. Cary saw the extra need for his squadron to help family members left behind while their spouses are deployed.

“Deployments are a way of life in the Air Force, now more than ever,” said Cary. “Most of our airmen do not have relatives close by to help their families when they deploy, so it’s our responsibility to provide that support structure. It is an integral part of the deployment process. Taking care of each other is part of our Air Force culture. Further, when our troops are confident their families at home are okay, it allows them

to focus on duty at the deployed site.”

The deployed assistance program takes volunteers and familiarizes them with the numerous support programs on base, and they point the spouses in the right direction when they call for extra help.

“Sometimes spouses don’t feel comfortable coming to the commander or myself,” said Senior Master Sgt. Brian Gautheir, 21st SFS First Sergeant and head program coordinator. “We wanted to have people in our squadron help other individuals with programs that we use on a daily basis.”

Nine volunteers were selected to go to briefings and instructional courses. They learned about programs offered by the Family Support Center, Life Skills, the Chapel, Air Force Aid financial assistance, employment, transition services, and more. When spouses or family members have any problems and they don’t know where to go, they can turn to the Deployed Assistance Program. They will talk to a coworker of the deployed security forces member and get pointed to the right direction.

“When the deployed member is gone for three to four months, the person staying at home needs to figure out where to pay bills, when they’re due, where due,” said Gautheir. “They also need to be thinking about where the wills are, even though you don’t want to think about things like that.

Also, people need to think about cars and changing oil, when the radiator needs to be flushed, how to winterize it. There are a lot of things to be thinking about.”

Several base agencies have programs to help family members here at Peterson.

“For example, the Family Support Center helps with jobs, financial counseling, or problems,” said Gautheir.

“There are other things to be concerned about, like the children and how they can keep in touch with mom or dad during deployment,” Gautheir said. “With the help of the Family Support Center, we can set up video teleconferencing



Photos by Larry Hulst

Staff Sgt. Jason Adams, 21st Security Forces Squadron, holds his child during one of Deployment Assistance Program briefings Security Forces now offers its deploying members.

and morale calls.”

People are limited to one 15-minute call per week for the morale call program. Video phone calls are only available in those forward deployed areas that have a compatible video phone.

“Other things that concern us are going from one parent back to two,” he added. “After three or four months where they haven’t seen each other, they need to ease back into family life. We prepare folks for when they come back from deployment.”

To prepare families for deployment, the Family Support Center gives them their Family Readiness briefing before they depart and cover topics like preparing for temporary duty, stress, depression, communication, and most importantly, reunion.

Once troops return, and are having trouble readjusting to one another, the FSC and the chapel assist with the reunion adjustment.

The program was put into place because of the deployment rate for Security Forces members, said Gautheir.

During Fiscal Year 2001,

103 Security Forces members from Team Pete deployed to various locations around the world.

“The main purpose of this program is that the spouses need to know they are part of the team, and we want to do anything we can to help with the separation of family members,” said Gautheir. “It’s important to let them know that it’s a special program. We want to help them, and we have people here in the squadron who can do that.”

“I’ll also be calling spouses once or twice a month, just to show that we really do care,” he added. “This program shows that we really do care about them and that they are part of the Security Forces team.”

If a Security Forces family member needs any assistance while they have a parent or spouse deployed, they may call 556-4800, the direct Security Forces line, which will have all the volunteers with their cellular, home, and work phone numbers handy.

Volunteers can be reached anytime they are needed.



National Guard Director visits Army Space

By Maj. Laura Kenney
Army Space Command

Lt. Gen. Roger C. Schultz, Director of the U.S. Army National Guard, visited soldiers of his component when he toured Army Space Command recently.

Accompanied by Colorado National Guard Adjutant General, Air Force Maj. Gen. Mason Whitney, and the Commander of Colorado's Army National Guard, Brig. Gen. Ronald Crowder, Schultz toured Army Space Command's new facilities and received mission briefs and updates.

Brig. Gen. Richard V. Geraci, Deputy Commanding General for Operations, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command, and Deputy Commanding General, U.S. Army Space Command, hosted the Guard dignitaries.

The 193rd Space Support Battalion has sent three Army Space Support Teams on deployments during the past year in support of various operations.

The director spoke at length, thanking the soldiers for 'stepping up to the plate' when their nation called.

"I am totally aware of what this mobilization meant to you," Schultz said. "The same issues that confront you are the ones facing the nation today. You soldiers have been on an expanded tour of duty, and your families have been there right along with you. We might as well have had them there raising their right hands when you enlisted.

"In today's world, we

have to ask for readiness in not only our soldiers, but in your families, and in your employers. I recognize the sacrifices that all three groups have made in this marathon mission. This is volunteering at its finest."

Schultz remarked on the significance of the space mission that 193rd SSB performs.

"Current operations demonstrate just how critical the mission you perform is. Daily, the importance of Space is brought home.

"A steady flow of communication to and from the warfighter is absolutely essential, and that's one of just many many areas in which you soldiers are absolutely essential. Keep up the good work, your Army and your nation depend on you. I have total confidence in you."

Schultz shook hands with everyone before he left.

"It makes it very clear that leadership cares about soldiers when someone of his rank and position takes time to break bread with us, and actually listen to the things we have to say," said Staff Sgt. Eric Peterson, Supply Officer for the 193rd.

"The Director of the Army National Guard's visit is a clear indication of the importance he places on the mission of Army Space," said 193rd SSB Commander Lt. Col. Michael Yowell. "In less than two years, we've gone from concept to training to mobilization and operational deployment with more to follow. We've moved at a rapid pace and come a long way." ✂

Learning to save pets' lives

By Cathy Todd
Pikes Peak Chapter of the Red Cross

Cardiopulmonary resuscitation and general first-aid can be a life-saving procedure to someone in need. What most people don't realize is it can also save your family pet's life, too.

During a Pet First Aid Class Saturday, instructed by Paul Pucci and sponsored by the Pikes Peak Chapter of the American Red Cross, six students from the 21st Security Forces Squadron and the Fort Carson Veterinary Clinic learned how to perform first aid CPR on animals.

The American Red Cross, along with the Humane Society have joined forces to provide a program that helps people prevent, prepare for, and respond to the emergency needs of their pets.

Information in the class included CPR procedures for cats and dogs, how to approach a sick or injured animal, and how to restrain them in order to give care in the event of an



Courtesy photo

Members from the 21st Security Forces Squadron and the Fort Carson Veterinary Clinic learned how to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation and basic first aid on animals Nov. 16.

emergency, whether basic first aid or CPR.

The class also featured instructions on how to recognize problems requiring immediate attention, such as bleeding, choking, shock, birthing difficulties, and poisoning.

More Pet First Aid

Classes will be offered in the coming months at the Red Cross at Peterson.

For more details about scheduling and information, call the Pikes Peak Chapter at 632-3563 or the Red Cross Health and Safety office on at 556-9201. ✂



Photo by Dennis Plummer

November Yard of the Month

Col. Marvin Fisher, 21st Support Group Commander, presents Master Sgt. Thomas Yereance, Air Force Space Command, and his family with a Services coupon book for winning the November Yard of the Month. ✂

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Inspection ready every day

Col. Mike Rampino
21st Operations Group Commander

Excellence in all we do. A few weeks ago in the Space Observer, our Wing Commander reminded us that just because our third core value is listed third, doesn't mean it's less important than the other two. But what is excellence and how do we recognize and cultivate it?

A former Secretary of the Air Force said, "Excellence is the difference between just getting by and soaring. It sets apart the significant from the superficial; the lasting from the temporary."

We know "excellent" is one of the five ratings you can earn on an inspection. Does an inspection grade of "excellent" or "outstanding" indicate the achievement of excellence?

In the 21st Operations Group, our traveling Operations Standardization Team visits units to assess their mission readiness and compliance with higher headquarters instructions.

Of all the squadrons visited in our last OST inspection cycle, only the 20th Space Surveillance Squadron at Eglin achieved an "outstanding," which is the top grade.

I asked the operations officer how they achieved this unrivaled result. He said they had the mindset of being "inspection ready every day." They even posted this phrase

"Whether your job is security, information management, maintenance, operations, or one of the many other specialties required to get the mission done, you have to know it cold, and perform it like a professional every time."

Col. Mike Rampino
21st Operations Group Commander

on the entrance to their ops center so all who entered could be reminded of their commitment to excellence.

Being inspection ready every day certainly isn't easy. And it doesn't happen by accident. It requires knowing your job and doing it with excellence every day.

Whether your job is security, information management, maintenance, operations, or one of the many other specialties required to get the mission done, you have to know it cold, and perform it like a professional every time. It also means knowing the instructions that apply to your job and ensuring your section is in complete compliance.

But compliance with governing instructions is just the minimum.

Performance — mission success — is the ultimate goal. Instructions exist to help us get there while staying within the boundaries of Air Force policies — they are "the law."

However, nothing can beat a well-trained, motivated airman who asks "Why?" and looks for better and safer ways to do the job. Submitting recommended improvements to technical orders, instructions, and other standing guidance is something we should all encourage. There are also times when blind compliance will lead to mission failure, serious injury, or even death. So, achieving excellence requires going beyond compliance to performance.

The 21st Space Wing will likely receive an Operational Readiness Inspection and Compliance Inspection in nine months.

If we're already giving our missions the attention they deserve, then we're ensuring compliance and delivering professional performance. There's no need to fear the ORI/CI. You may even look forward to the chance to earn an "outstanding" if you're inspection ready every day.

Peak Performer

Name: Tech. Sgt. Paul J. Botz Jr.
Unit: 21st Logistics Readiness Squadron
Duty Title: Quality Assurance Evaluator
Time in Service: 17 years
Hometown: St. Cloud, Minn.
Off-duty Interests: Investing in real estate and income/rental properties. Working on home improvement projects. Socializing and meeting new people. Traveling and watching sports on TV (especially when any Minnesota team is playing). Going to the movies and eating out. Doing volunteer work and helping out whenever I can.



Why did you join the Air Force? To see the world and meet new and exciting people. To experience different cultures and make a variety of friends all over the world. To pursue my education and complete my degree before leaving the Air Force. To serve my country and be part to the best Air Force in the world.

Favorite part of your job: The favorite part of my job is that every day is different and never routine or dull. I am in a very unique situation being stationed here at Peterson as a supply OAE; you never know what's going to come up next. One morning, I may be chasing a mission essential part for Thule, and that afternoon I may be training the supply contractor on a text pad program.

What inspires you to do what you do? I learn something new every single day, I really enjoy that. I have the opportunity to influence and be influenced by people each day. I admire people who are doers. I don't care whether it's a small or big project. If someone has a dream and applies themselves to turn that dream into a reality, that is worthy of admiration and encouragement. What inspires me most is the thrill of the climb. Once I'm there, I like to search for the next mountain.

What goals do you have: Many of my goals I have already met. The next mountain for me to climb is to begin a doctorate program in the near future.



Check out the *Space Observer* online at

www.spaceobserver.com

Pumping iron: Team Pete bodybuilder prepares for national championship competition

By Senior Airman Shane Sharp
21st Space Wing Public Affairs

A retired senior master sergeant with the 21st Maintenance Group qualified for the national bodybuilding championships by placing first in a Colorado bodybuilding competition. Jimmy Banks, 21st MXG Program Manager, captured first place honors in the Natural Colorado Bodybuilding Championships, Oct. 5 in Boulder, Colo.

The win gave him the first top finish of his three-year career, and qualified him for the national championship competition, next summer in Pittsburgh, Pa.

“That was probably my proudest moment yet,” said the 225-pound Banks. “I competed in the open division against bodybuilders a lot younger than I am, and I got first place. It was a great feeling.”

A unique aspect of his latest competition was that his 27-year-old son also competed.

“My son competed in a different division, but it was very exciting being in the same show,” said Banks. “Most people have never seen a father-son

combination in the same competition. I think it may have been a first, and it was definitely exciting for us both.”

Besides finishing first in the open division, Banks also took second at the competition in the Drug Free For Life division.

“The Drug Free For Life division is for bodybuilders who have never taken performance-enhancing drugs like steroids and the like,” said Banks. “It’s for those who rely totally on natural means in their weight training.”

The 50-year-old muscle man said his desire to stay fit is what led him eventually to bodybuilding.

“After retiring from the Air Force, I had shoulder surgery and became not-so active and gained a little weight around the middle,” said Banks. “I decided that I wasn’t going to let myself go like that, and that I was going to stay in some kind of shape.”

“I saw several pictures in magazines of so-called success stories with before and after photos, but I was doubtful,” said Banks. “I decided to give it a try anyway. The weight came off and I saw some real improvements. Some friends of mine said I should try



Courtesy photo
Jimmy Banks, 21st Maintenance Group, struts his stuff in a recent Colorado bodybuilding competition. Banks took first place honors and qualified for the national championships.

See **BODYBUILDER**, Page 16



From Page 15

BODYBUILDER: *Air Force retiree building work of art*

competing in bodybuilding. I started watching my diet and sticking to a program, and it worked. I competed in my first competition in May of '99, where I placed second and third in different divisions."

After four competitions spread across three years of weight training, Banks said the part of it he likes the most are the workouts.

"I enjoy the workout. It's just you and the iron," said Banks. "I challenge myself every time I walk in the weight room. It's about competing with yourself to reach your goals, master a weight, and move on."

Banks spends on average about 10 hours a week working out with weights and doing cardio exercises. Some wonder if it's worth spending that much time working out for six months for only five minutes on stage during a competition. Banks doesn't wonder.

"When you look at where you came from and where you're at, you realize you've accomplished your goals," said Banks. "Competing gives you a real sense of accomplishment."

Success in the sport hasn't come easy for Banks.

"The biggest challenges I've had in the sport have been my age and my height," said the 6-foot-3-inch tall Banks. "It's difficult for tall people to gain mass, and, being the age that I am, I

have to work harder to get results."

Overcoming challenges has given Banks an education in what it takes to be successful in bodybuilding. He says anyone can achieve success in the sport.

"You have to decide what your goals are," said Banks. "If you have nothing to aim for, you don't know what you're shooting for."

"Then you have to choose a starting point. It's important that you start at your own starting point, not someone else's. Then you have to stick to your program and be patient. You're not going to reach your goals overnight."

According to Banks, eating right is key to accomplishing fitness goals.

"Most people that work out continuously without seeing any results aren't eating right," said Banks. "Dieting right is one of the most important parts of a workout plan, and the hardest part when it comes to competition. This is what scares most would-be competitors away."

Any bodybuilding beginners who would like more advice will find a willing source in Banks. He's also the National Physique Committee's Colorado Military Bodybuilding Representative, which means he'll to spread the word about bodybuilding to military members in the state.

"Anyone interested in bodybuilding can give me a call for more infor-



Photo by Senior Airman Shane Sharp

Bodybuilder Jimmy Banks spends on average about 10 hours a week working out with weights and doing cardio exercises. As the national championship competition draws near, he will nearly double his workout time.

mation about the sport here in Colorado. I'd be happy to talk to them about it," he added. Banks can be reached at 556-1599.

As far as any lofty goals, Banks said he takes bodybuilding one competition at a time and that his focus in weight training is a little more basic.

"My goals are pretty simple. I'd like to stay physically fit. That's my primary goal. Bodybuilding is secondary."

So Banks will continue to stay in shape through bodybuilding as he gears up to compete on the national stage. Beyond that, he said he will decide when he gets there.

